

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 12420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL

REF: USOECD 12279

SUMMARY. MAY 13 COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTATION FOR MINISTERIAL AGENDA ITEM 1 (C(75)70) REVEALED CONTINUED DIVERGENCE IN VIEWS AND SOME ANXIETY AMONG DELEGATIONS OVER STATE OF PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS ON RELATIONS WITH LDCE AND COMMODITIES ISSUES. NEXT FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON DOCUMENT AND OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES WILL TAKE PLACE AT HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20. HOWEVER, SEC GEN VAN LENNEP HAS JUST CALLED HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING FOR MAY 16 TO GO OVER STATE OF PLAY. WE HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN COPY OF UK DRAFT DECLARATION TO BE DISCUSSED IN EC BRUSSELS (COREPER) TOMORROW. END SUMMARY.

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1. ONLY DETAILED, INSTRUCTED COMMENTS ON SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT CAME FROM JAPANESE, WHO CRITICIZED SECRETARIAT LANGUAGE IN PARTS III AND IV AS GOING TOO FAR TOWARD ACCOMMODATION TO DEMANDS OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, IMPLYING TOO DRASTIC A REVISION IN FREE TRADE AND MARKET MECHANISM, AND FAILING TO REFLECT COMPLEXITIES OF COMMODITIES ISSUE AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS. MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS WHO SPOKE AGREED IN PART WITH JAPANESE CRITICISMS OF PARTS III AND IV BUT THOUGHT SECRETARIAT PAPER WOULD FORM GOOD BASIS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION. SEVERAL, INCLUDING US, POINTED TO NEED TO ADJUST DOCUMENT TO REFLECT XCSS DISCUSSION OF COMMODITIES AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS. IN ADDITION, AMB. TURNER THOUGHT DOCUMENT SHOULD BE FOCUSED MORE CLOSELY ON RESULTS EXPECTED TO EMERGE FROM MINISTERIAL AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT SOME REFERENCE TO MTN AND FOLLOW-UP TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY AFFECT NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS.

2. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS INDICATED SOME ANXIETY OVER STATE OF PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS DISCUSSED AT XCSS, I.E., A) FORM AND CONTENTS OF POSSIBLE DECLARATIONS OR COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON COMMODITIES AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS, B) MANDATE ON MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES AND C) OVERALL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH LDCS PROPOSED BY SECGEN. GERMANS SUPPORTED PROPOSED REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH LDCS BUT THOUGHT TIME TOO SHORT TO COME UP WITH MEANINGFUL DECLARATION ON COMMODITIES FOR MINISTERIAL. GERMAN PERMREP SUGGESTED THAT COMMODITIES ISSUE SHOULD BE SUBSUMED UNDER MORE GENERAL DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH LDCS. SWEDISH DEL, ON OTHER HAND, REPEATED POSITION STATED BY SWEDISH REP AT XCSS THAT OECD SHOULD NOT UNDERTAKE OVERALL REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH LDCS. OECD SHOULD ONLY TAKE ON ISSUES WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED TO HANDLE, SUCH AS COMMODITIES, AND LEAVE OTHER NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES TO OTHER FORA WHERE THEY CAN BE DEALT WITH MORE EFFECTIVELY. CANADIAN AND DANISH REPS WERE ALSO COOL TOWARD OECD REVIEW OF NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS. JAPANESE REP DID NOT INDICATE SPECIFIC POSITIONS ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS BUT INSISTED, WITH BACKING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SEVERAL OTHER PERMREPS, THAT THERE MUST BE CAREFUL PREPARATIONS ON THESE ISSUES PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL.

3. VAN LENNEP INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES AS WELL AS COMMUNIQUE BY HEADS OF DEL THROUGHOUT NEXT WEEK. DURING HEADS OF DEL MEETING ON MAY 14 HE STATED THAT DOCUMENTATION FOR AGENDA ITEM I WOULD NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL GENERAL

AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON TREATMENT OF COMMODITIES AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS. HE HOPED TO BE IN POSITION TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD BY TUESDAY, MAY 20, BY WHICH TIME HE HOPED ALSO TO CIRCULATE A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE.

4. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH VAN LENNEP AND BRITISH SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT DELAYS IN

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OBTAINING DOCUMENTATION FOR DAY ONE BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY ABOUT NEED FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS TO BE CLEAR ABOUT RESULTS EXPECTED FROM MEETING ESPECIALLY ON ITEM ONE OF AGENDA. VAN LENNEP TOLD US THE BRITISH HAVE INSISTED THAT OECD SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTATION ON ITEM ONE NOT BE DISTRIBUTED UNTIL AFTER VAN LENNEP'S VISIT ON MONDAY TO LONDON. BRITS HAVE NOW CIRCULATED THEIR DRAFT DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH LDCS (SEPTTEL) IN BRUSSELS,

TO VAN LENNEP AND (WE ARE TOLD) WASHIHGTON. IT CONTAINS
NOTHING ON COMMODITIES. LOCAL DELEGATION DOES NOT
KNOW WHETHER OR NOT A SEPARATE PAPER OR DRAFT COMMUNIQUE
LANGUAGE ON COMMODITIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING. BRITISH
DELEGATION HERE HAVE BEEN QUITE SURPRISED BY OUR
POSITION THAT IN ADDITION TO SAME STATEMENT OR STATE-
MENTS ON RELATIONS WITH LDCS AND COMMODITIES AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMODITY GROUP WE CONTINUE TO AVOID
VAN LENNEP'S PROPOSAL THAT MINISTERIAL INSTRUCT ORGANIZA-
TION TO CONDUCT IN DEPTH BROAD INTEGRATED STUDY OF
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NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

5. IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF DOCUMENTATION, RESTIVENESS OF
DELEGATIONS AND CONFUSION OVER ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED,
VAN LENNEP HAS CALLED A HEADS OF DEL MEETING FOR TOMORROW
MAY 16. HE HAS TOLD US HE INTENDS TO RAISE THE ISSUES
WHICH MUST BE FACED BETWEEN NOW AND THE MINISTERIAL
APPARENTLY ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 6 OF REFTEL. UNLESS
INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY WE WILL:

(A) ARGUE FOR FLEXIBILITY ON FORM AND CONTEXTS FOR
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH LDCS AND COMMOD-
ITIES. IF CONTENTS OF STATEMENT ON COMMODITIES COMES
UP WE WILL ARGUE FOR SECRETARY'S KANSAS CITY THREE POINT
PROGRAM AS BASIS. IF ENOUGH CAN BE SAID ON BOTH QUES-
TIONS WE WOULD PREFER SINGLE STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED
AT END OF FIRST DAY.

(B) WE WILL PREFER JOLLES SUMMATION AS BASIS FOR MANDATE
OF HLG ON COMMODITIES TO BE SET UP EITHER BY XCSS
(PREFERABLY) OR COUNCIL DURING OR PRIOR TO FIRST DAY
AND TRYING TO KEEP MINISTERS FROM BEING BOGGED DOWN
ON ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES .

(C) WE WILL FAVOR VAN LENNEP'S PROPOSED
GENERAL REVIEW OF OVERALL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH LDCS,
TRYING TO KEEP IT UNDER AEGIS OF XCSS BUT AGAIN TRYING
TO AVOID PROCEDURAL SQUABBLE OVER THIS POINT AT MINIS-
TERIAL.
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